

*Rev. H. L. Baughen*  
*with respects*  
*W. H. Gobrecht*

ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATES

OF THE

Medical Department of Pennsylvania College.



BY

WILLIAM H. GOBRECHT, M. D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

Published by the Class.

PHILADELPHIA:

COLLINS, PRINTER, 705 JAYNE STREET.

1860



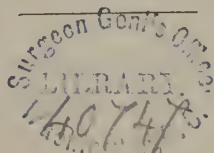
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS  
TO THE  
GRADUATES  
OF THE  
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT  
OF  
PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE,

DELIVERED AT THE  
Public Commencement, March 3, 1860.

BY  
WILLIAM H. GOBRECHT, M. D.,  
PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
February 27th, 1860.

Prof. WM. H. GOBRECHT—

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the Graduating Class, held February 27th, 1860, T. CLOWES BROWN, of New Brunswick, was called to the chair, and RICHARD LEFFERS, of North Carolina, appointed Secretary. On motion of WM. E. CARTER, of Virginia, it was unanimously resolved that the Chairman appoint a committee to solicit, for publication, a copy of the Valedictory Address which you propose to deliver at the ensuing Commencement.

In accordance with the above resolution, we were constituted the committee to announce to you the wish of the Class. Your compliance with the request which it becomes our pleasing duty thus to make known to you, will not only be gratifying in itself, but will afford us another opportunity of bearing testimony to the faithfulness with which you have labored to render us worthy of the professional career on which we are about to enter. With warm wishes for your health and happiness, we remain

Very respectfully yours,

CHAS. P. CONNELL,	N. Brunswick,	WM. M. DYKES,	Georgia,
ALBERT M. SIGMUND,	Pennsylvania,	JAS. M. SPEED,	Alabama,
FRED. F. BURMEISTER,	California,	CHAS. L. STODDARD,	N. York,
S. R. LEWIE,	S. Carolina,	J. ELLIOTT MILLER,	Maryland,
J. R. ELLIS,	N. Carolina,	A. SATTERTHWAITE,	N. Jersey,
SAM'L B. GOODWIN,	Virginia,		<i>Committee.</i>

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PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
February 28th, 1860.

GENTLEMEN—

It affords me sincere pleasure to comply with the request of the Graduating Class, through you so delicately tendered. I therefore place the manuscript of my Valedictory Address at your disposal, regretting that it is not more worthy of your acceptance.

Please convey to the Class my acknowledgments of their kind appreciation of my labors, and assure them that no effort on my part will ever be wanting to maintain the reputation and dignity of the School which sends them forth.

Very respectfully and truly,

Your friend,

W. H. GOBRECHT.

To Messrs. CONNELL, SIGMUND, BURMEISTER,  
LEWIE, and others, *Committee.*

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN: Graduates in Medicine of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, in behalf of my colleagues, I welcome you to the ranks of that great profession into which the diploma just granted has gained you admission.

It is well, perhaps, that those who have so anxiously labored to impart to you the information necessary for the successful pursuit of your high and responsible calling, should be the first to greet you and congratulate you on this first great end attained, not without great labor, painful thought, harassing cares, and much expenditure of midnight oil.

It would seem to us but ill, if stranger voices were empowered to strike the chords which none but once familiar spirits should essay to touch, and, therefore, here to day, at this last moment, whilst we give you freely to the world—as the great conservators of its health and happiness—as the self-sacrificing alleviators of human suffering, misery, and distress—as the determined enemies of disease and death—we would detain you a little, ere that parting grasp be given, ere that farewell word be uttered, which shall divide us, never again to meet, perchance, this side the grave, until we speak some words of comfort and encouragement to

sustain and guide you, in, we trust, your future bright career.

I have often asked myself, as I have viewed the studious class before me in the lecture-room, assembled from almost every portion of our beautiful and varied continent—from the snow-clad mountains and the piercing winds of the far North—from the bracing air of the hills and valleys of the East—from the temperate latitude of our own immediate regions, and the garden of the West—from the genial climate of the South—from the far-off gold fields of the Pacific coast; and from that sea-girt isle of many charms which yields us up her choicest treasures: what were the motives which impelled each one of you to enter upon the study of Medicine? to leave his friends and family and come up to this seat of learning, to continue that study and prosecute it to this end?

I have pictured to myself the surrounding circumstances which have affected your design—which have either proved originators of, or incentives to, action.

Some of you may have had enough of the ills of life to contend with, and, in the honest struggle for existence, have seen others around you, engaged in the same hand to hand contest, suffering, falling, and dying by the way, and you have felt that it were noble to uphold the weary hands and strengthen the tottering limbs of your fellow-workers. You have looked about you for your proper field of labor, and have felt impelled to study Medicine.

Others have been nursed in the lap of luxury. To these, occupation has worn the gentle aspect of a pas-

time. And what pastime could be nobler than the healing of the wounds, and the alleviation of the pains of suffering humanity? Here a wide field of usefulness has opened to your vision, and you became pilgrims to that shrine over whose altar the lamp, ever trimmed and filled, forever sheds its gentle cheering ray.

Still others, calmly contemplating a business for life, have sought for that which would insure a moderate competence, perhaps more, and while so doing, enable them to confer the greatest amount of benefit upon their fellow-men, and, having felt that this occupation would be the practice of Medicine, have, with deliberate purpose, embarked in the enterprise.

Now, whatever have been the apparent motives which have actuated each of you, I hold it certain that Benevolence lies behind them all; and that money, however necessary it may be to your existence, has not been your only object.

This Benevolence, which is the main-spring of your action, is the great element which will lead to your success; it is the underlying current of the whole profession; without it you are unworthy to hold a position in its ranks. Impelled by it, you have come up hither, from the North—from the South—from the East and from the West, and sat down together upon our benches, as candidates for the honors, yes! and for the trials and difficulties too, of that profession whose true hearts, beating in one eternal rhythm, know no North, no South, no East, no West, but one vast, grand and undivided Republic of Medicine.

You have found here, perhaps, in entering upon your



curriculum of study, that the field was more vast, and more extended than you had anticipated—that there were avenues leading out from the main track so long and so rugged, that the heart sickened in the contemplation of the exploration. But, you soon perceived that this exploration had been reduced to a system—that whilst there were rocks which had to be surmounted by main force, yet there were also gentle rills, and purling brooks, and darkling glades, and flowery borders which gently wiled the way—till, by practice and experience strengthened, you have surmounted difficulties far greater than at first you could have hoped to conquer. This has incited you to redoubled exertions. The result is shown in your presence here to-day.

Gentlemen, you have, as collegiate students, labored long, untiringly, and well; you have accumulated that knowledge which you will use as a basis upon which to build your experience. But your work is not completed; and this day, which is to you the Commencement of a new life, is also the commencement of new and exhausting labor. “Know you not that it is the very condition of all great structures that the sound of the hammer and the clink of the trowel should be always heard in some part of the building?” And thus it is with the mind. Forget not then the habits of study which you have here formed; they will be more necessary to your existence than ever before, since hereafter you will be called to deal with personal realities; the abstract reasonings and the finely drawn theories of your quietude will be transmuted into the actual as you grapple with death in the solemn stillness of the chamber of the



sufferer—and you will feel then, if you never felt before, how great a power you wield, and what a vast store of knowledge you require to wield that power, and carry even trivial cases to successful ends.

Work on, then, work always ; for it is only thus you can be truly great in the profession of Medicine.

Labor, unreserved and unceasing, is demanded of you. It is demanded, firstly, by the community which intrusts the lives and happiness of its members to your watchful care and keeping, that you may restore them, in time of need, to usefulness, and ward off pestilence and death. It is demanded by the profession whose accumulated stores of learning have been showered upon you, that you may use them freely, and thus using, return their interest to the general stock for generations yet unborn. And lastly, it is demanded by the school which sends you forth, that you may not place a blot upon an escutcheon which we fain would see unsullied.

Unceasing labor, in short, is a permanent condition of human existence ; see to it, that this labor be not in vain, and that death, which is inevitable, overtakes you not ere the task be well begun, nay, nigh accomplished.

The profession upon which you have entered will prove no sinecure—your beds will prove no beds of roses. If scientific research were your only occupation, how swiftly and delightfully would the hours of day pass by, and how sweetly would your nightly visions usher in the breaking morn ; how would the gentle summer breezes, rustling the papers in your cool and cosy sanctum, dispose to active thought—how would the winter's crackling fire induce to long drawn plea-

surable toil. But, although study is required of you, it is at the bedside as well as by the book, and the time and the circumstances of that study are not always, nay, are very rarely, under your control, and you yourselves must make the practical application of your mental labor. Hence you will frequently find that, on demand, the cool breezes in the library are replaced by the blistering rays of a mid-day sun on a parched road—that the winter's fire, oh! so comfortable, is exchanged for the blinding snow and the fearful blasts of the midnight storm, as you wend your weary way, both to study and to help.

Your services will be demanded, both in season and out of season; by night and by day; in storm and in sunshine; whether you be sick or well, for the world has almost come to think that from a moment such as this, you and your fellows have put off the garb of mortality, and feel neither heat nor cold, that you neither hunger nor thirst, that your minds and bodies know neither fatigue nor exhaustion—in fact, that an inexhaustible fountain of youth, whose crystal waters well up from some hidden crypt in your curious frames, constantly replenishes your iron constitutions; that you carry some potent talisman which ever guards you from disease, no matter in what fearful form it meets you. Would it were so! But, alas! all men are mortal, and you will prove no exceptions to the rule. You must labor to live, and live to die like all the world besides, which world looks to you for very present help in dire distress.

I trust, however, that you will not be found wanting in the time of trial. You have selected your occupation

by your own free will: be faithful and true. Consult the best interests of the community in which you live, the best interests of your patients, and, believe me, you will consult your own; for notwithstanding you will sometimes suffer reproach and misrepresentation, and the withholding of the just reward of your labors, yet you will, as a general rule, find, although the extent of your services may not be entirely understood or recognized, that your patients are not only willing to remunerate you according to their ability, but do so with grateful hearts, whilst their actions prove your presence to be welcome not only in the house of suffering, but in the house of joy; and occasionally you will meet with some whose appreciation of your value will exceed your own modest demands, who will not only cheer you by the kindness and sympathy which you will so often need, but by substantial and material aid increase your earthly stores.

Be encouraged, then. There is no business in life which is devoid of cares, responsibilities, and trials, to temper the excitements of its successes, and none has more of each of these than yours. You are, it is true, unable to exhibit the florid eloquence of the clergy, or the forensic displays of the bar, by which rapt multitudes are swayed from painful silence to tumultuous heavings of ill-suppressed passion, and calmed again in turn; but you may enter the holy of holies—the dark chamber of the sick and dying—where all the noise, and turmoil, and strife, and sycophantic adulation of the treacherous world seem like a fading echo, and, in the truthful confidences of those solemn moments, feel that

a bond exists between humanity and you, too strong for mind to measure—too sacred for its violation—too high, too deep, too broad, too grand to be compared with all the fleeting triumphs of the day.

For this, you can well afford to bear with the inconsistencies, the inconsiderate exactions, yes, even with the petulancies of your coming friends, for many a heart will learn to beat responsive to your falling footsteps, and many an eye will glisten as your cheering voice strikes on the quickened ear, and many a fervent prayer invoke the choicest blessings on the kindest, dearest, best of friends.

You must, however, have inferred from the remarks I have already made that something more is needed to qualify you as practitioners of Medicine than study from books and at the bedside, themselves so essential indeed to your success. You should possess good moral character, and should show by your lives that you are virtuous, not from the fear of the consequences of evil-doing, but because virtue in itself is noble, and conduces to your efficiency and greatest happiness.

No scientific attainment, howsoever extended, can ever nullify the effects of immorality. Reflect but for a moment on the great interests confided to your care; on the inmost secrets of the heart laid bare before you in the weakest moments of human frailty; on the implicit trust placed in your integrity; on the unequalled privileges of your calling, and on the sacredness of your mission; and prove, by example as well as by precept, that a soul of honor controls your every action. And believe with me that he who prosti-

tutes his sacred office to injure innocence and trample under foot the holiest of vows and tenderest ties of life is not less criminal than he who mingles poison in the sacramental chalice.

Let your conduct be guided by a scrupulous regard for the rights of others: encourage the weak; support the faint; look charitably upon the faults of the erring, and gently guide them to a safer path. Thus you will become not only "healers of the sick," but good and true physicians.

Acting under such influences, not the least part of your reward will be the approbation of your own conscience, without which all earthly honors or emoluments can give but fleeting pleasures—nay, must prove secret burdens, too heavy for the stoutest heart to bear.

With an undoubting faith in your own integrity of purpose, many an ill of life will pass you by unscathed, malicious shafts fall harmless to the mark, and even enemies will give you praise.

You should cultivate agreeable and courteous manners in your intercourse with others. Incivility should not be the badge of authority in Medicine, whilst true politeness does but add a brighter lustre to your dignity. In short, do not forget that being physicians, you should of necessity be gentlemen.

Endeavor to obtain the entire control of your emotions. I do not say divest yourselves of sensibility. No human being who follows your pursuit, and daily mingles with the sick in every circumstance of life, and hears alike the cry of pain go up from the hovel of the beggar and the palace of the millionaire—who listens



to the plaintive wail of the dying infant swathed in the rags of squalid poverty, or gently soothed in arms of well-born nurses—who stands a silent witness of the agonies of grief, now too deep for utterance, fearful from intensity, and then in wildest of excesses bursting forth with tears and cries and frantic lamentations—can plead guilty to the charge of want of feeling. Nay! your tender hearts will often bleed for those around you; but, you must remember that upon your calmness and self-possession in times of trial and danger, leading to prompt, cool, deliberate action, will depend many a life suspended by a thread, many an untold interest—perchance eternal happiness.

You will school yourselves thus, that your brain may be clear, your eye steady, and your hand firm whilst chaos reigns around—that you may inspire that confidence which leads to your success, and that, whilst alleviating the pangs and administering to the wants of suffering humanity, you may unflinchingly perform those duties for which you have been fitted.

Such a control is not the work of a moment; it is often the work of years. To attain it, you must apply the rule to your daily life, and endeavor to restrain an undue manifestation of feeling concerning affairs which more immediately affect yourselves. Learn to meet all difficulties with a courageous front, and though a blow should fall with almost power enough to sever soul and body, be it yours to pursue the calm and even tenor of your way, dispensing pleasant words and kindness even to the careless recipients of your favors, should your inmost heart drop blood at every footstep.

But your relations in society are not only with your patients and immediate friends—you will be thrown constantly in contact with other physicians who are also striving to gain the confidence of the community, and to act for its greatest good; with them you may agree in opinion, or may not; your interests may be mutual or diverse. Never forget, however, under such circumstances, that differences of opinion are quite compatible with friendship, and diversity of interest with entire honesty of purpose. Foreseeing these contingencies, as a guide to your actions in your intercourse both with the public and with your own profession, we have presented each of you with the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association, the highest medical tribunal of this country. If you will profit by its precepts, I can assure you that bitterness of heart and enmity and sad contentions will be banished from our ranks, and that your paths will be those of pleasantness and peace. Keep it forever open on your office table, but always carry in your minds its basis—its prevailing sentiment—its highest aim, and general law—“Do to others as you would have others do to you.” It is only the enlargement, the exponent of this noble rule.

But, gentlemen, time warns me to have done; a few precious grains of golden sand in the unturned glass alone remain. I have occupied the fleeting moments allotted me with pleasure, yet with sadness, for I know that ere another hour has passed the world, like an open sea, will be before you. Whither will you steer? Will you shake your snowy canvas to the tempting breeze, and part the crested wave triumphant in the glorious



sunlight? Will the pole-star, high in sparkling firmament, attract your gaze by night, and will the phosphorescent spangles of the foaming deep attest your bright career? Or, will the rolling thunder and the shrieking blast shout requiem to your foundering bark?

May the brilliant constellations of the deep blue sky, with grand effulgence cheer your onward way. We wish you *bon voyage*. We stand upon the shore, and wave a last Adieu!

With faith in God, and trust in his right arm—Adieu!

## GRADUATES.

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At at Public Commencement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, held at the Musical Fund Hall, on Saturday, March 3d, 1860, the Degree of *Doctor of Medicine* was conferred on the following gentlemen, on behalf of the Faculty, by Rev. H. L. BAUGHER, D. D., President of Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Bennett, A. D.	Pennsylvania,	Causes of Indigestion.
Brown, T. Clowes	N. Brunswick,	Bronchitis.
Burmeister, F. F.	California,	Fractures.
Carter, Wm. E.	Virginia,	Scarlatina.
Claridge, Wm. R.	Pennsylvania,	Tart. Emet. in Venereal.
Coleman, Amos G.	Pennsylvania,	Examination of Patient.
Connell, Chas. P.	N. Brunswick,	Medical Reflections.
Conrad, Isaac H.	Pennsylvania,	Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain.
Durham, Isaiah D.	N. Carolina,	Abortion.
Dykes, Wm. M.	Georgia,	Pneumonia.
Ellis, J. R.	N. Carolina,	Typhoid Fever.
Finney, Adam B.	Pennsylvania,	Scarlatina.
Gatchell, Jacob C.	Pennsylvania,	Dysentery.
Goodwin, Sam'l B.	Virginia,	Dysentery.
Hartz, Jno. K.	Pennsylvania,	Signs of Pregnancy.
Heaney, Patrick	Pennsylvania,	Typhoid Fever.
Houghton, Chas. W.	Pennsylvania,	Mechanism of Labor.
Keir, Wm. Geo.	Pennsylvania,	Dysentery.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Leffers, Richard	N. Carolina,	Remittent Fever.
Lewie, S. R.	S. Carolina,	Ligation of Arteries.
Longshore, W. R.	Pennsylvania,	Searlatina.
Lybrand, Wm. C.	Pennsylvania,	Arachnitis.
McMurtrie, Geo. S.	Pennsylvania,	Water.
Miller, J. Elliott	Maryland,	Cod-liver Oil.
Ricketts, W. Wall	Pennsylvania,	Pathology of Death.
Satterthwaite, A.	New Jersey,	Physical Diagnosis.
Schœner, Adam J.	Pennsylvania,	True Aims of the Physician.
Seitzinger, Franklin S.	Pennsylvania,	Neuralgia.
Shaeffer, J. C.	Pennsylvania,	Variola.
Shoemaker, Charles E.	Pennsylvania,	The Ear.
Sigmund, Albert M.	Pennsylvania,	Rabies Canina.
Speed, Jas. M.	Alabama,	Syphilis.
Stoddard, Chas. L.	New York,	The Heart and its Neuroses.
Thomas, Jesse J.	Pennsylvania,	Typhoid Fever.
Townsend, Stephen	Pennsylvania,	Phthisis Pulmonalis.
Wagenseller, B. F.	Pennsylvania,	Ovariectomy.
White, Wm. H.	Pennsylvania,	Syphilis.
Wolf, Henry	Pennsylvania,	Pneumonia.



# PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE—MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Ninth Street below Locust, Philadelphia.

SESSION OF 1860-61.

## FACULTY.

B. HOWARD RAND, M. D., Professor of Chemistry.

HENRY HARTSHORNE, M. D., Professor of Practice of Medicine.

LEWIS D. HARLOW, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, &c.

WILLIAM S. HALSEY, M. D., Professor of Surgery.

WM. HEMBEL TAGGART, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.

JAMES AITKEN MEIGS, M. D., Professor of Institutes of Medicine.

WM. H. GOBRECHT, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.

THEODORE A. DEMMÉ, M. D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

HUGH SCOTT, Janitor.

The Session of 1860-61 will commence on Monday, 8th of October and continue, without intermission, until the first of March. The Commencement for conferring Degrees will take place early in March, causing as little detention of the Graduating Class after the close of the Lectures, as possible.

There will also be an examination of candidates for graduation on the 1st of July; the Degree, in such cases, being conferred at the ensuing Commencement in March.

The Rooms for Practical Anatomy will be open early in September.

The College Clinic will be conducted on every Wednesday and Saturday throughout the Session.

Second Course Students are furnished with a ticket of admission to the Philadelphia or Pennsylvania Hospital, free of charge.

The Register of Matriculants will be opened in the College Building, early in September. The Janitor will always be present at the College, to give every necessary assistance and information (as regards board, &c.) to students, on their arrival in the city.

## FEES.

Matriculation (paid once only)	25 00
For each Professor's ticket	15 00
Graduation	30 00

LEWIS D. HARLOW, M. D., Dean

No. 1023 Vine below 11th Street.